



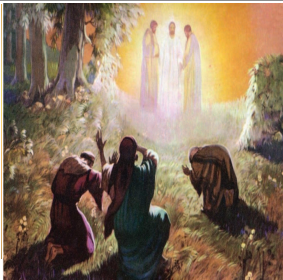
# ASCENSION

Roman Catholic Church  
86-13 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373

## Parish Mission Statement

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we, the people of Ascension, strive to be united in Christ through worship and prayer, grow in Christ through God's word and the sacraments, and serve Christ in one another by sharing time, talent and treasure.*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 25, 2024



### *From the Pastor's Desk*

Second Sunday of Lent  
February 25, 2024  
Mark 9:2-10

Dear Ascension Family,

Blessings of peace and good health!

The gospel reading today is about the Transfiguration of Jesus. It took place right after Jesus told his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem to suffer and die. When Peter heard Jesus say this, he cried out, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you."

This might be Peter's way of showing his love and concern for Jesus. But unknown to him, with these words he was reiterating Satan's objective when he tempted Jesus three times - to deviate from his mission. That is why Jesus then said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Jesus knew what was in the mind and heart of Peter. Thus after six days, he invited him along with James and John to go up with him on the mountain. There Jesus was transfigured before them, "His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light." The dazzling whiteness of Jesus' clothes symbolizes the brightness of God's glory. The Book of Revelation uses this same symbolism when it says that in heaven the blessed will be "robed all in white"(Rev. 3:5).

Peter was so fascinated by this wonderful experience that he wanted to prolong it. Peter's suggestion to prolong the dazzling vision was immediately followed by the descent of the cloud. In Scripture the cloud is the symbol of God's presence (see Exodus 24:15ff; Acts 1:9). Then a voice from the cloud was heard saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

continue next page

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday - Friday: 7:00 & 9:00AM**

**Saturday : 9:00 AM**

**: 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)**

**Sunday : 8:30 | 10:00 | 11:30AM**

**1:00 PM (Spanish)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Cebuano)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Tagalog)**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ 5:00 PM (Divine Mercy)**



**Rev. Anacleto S. Asebias, Jr.**  
Pastor

**Rev. Kyrian C. Echekwu**  
Parochial Vicar

**Sr. Mary Genevieve Ofori-Atta, HDR**  
Director of Religious Education

**Peter Roland**  
Music Director

**Terry Guevara**  
Parish Secretary

**Romulo Quiblat**  
Parish Council Chair

**Maryann Nepomuceno**  
Parish Finance Chair

**Fernando Velazquez**  
**Maria San Pedro**  
Parish Trustees

### Rectory Office Hours: Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Telephone: (718) 335-2626 | Fax: (718) 335-4181

Email: [ascensionrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionrcchurch@gmail.com) | Website: [www.ascensionparishelmhurst.org](http://www.ascensionparishelmhurst.org)

SCHOOL: Saint Adalbert Catholic Academy

<https://saintadalbertca.org>

52-17 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373

718-424-2376 / Fax: 718-898-7852

Jesus however, ignored Peter's proposal. Instead he asked them to go down the mountain so that he could go on with his journey to Jerusalem to fulfill what his Father willed.

The concluding words, "Listen to him," express the significance of this mystery for Jesus' friends: not only for the three present on the mountain with him, but for all the friends of Jesus, ourselves included. We the friends and followers of Jesus, are the company of those who listen to his words. Jesus does not grant us, any more than he granted to Peter, James, and John, the continuous vision of this glory. We live not on the mountain top of great spiritual experiences, but in the valley of life's ordinary duties, where we have to listen to Jesus.

Jesus speaks to us in many ways: in the Holy Scriptures, in the teaching of his Church, through the circumstances of daily life, in the promptings of conscience, and in the needs of those we encounter along life's way. In the world to come it will be different. There we shall see the Lord. In this world, however, we live by faith, and not by sight.

This is the way Jesus lived. How bitterly his faith was tested as he passed through death's dark valley, expressed in his anguished cry on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus calls us to follow him on the way of the cross: to endure whatever trials and sufferings life may bring. The way of the cross will lead us, as it led Jesus, through suffering to death. But beyond death for us, as for him, is resurrection to life eternal. The Transfiguration was Jesus' way of preparing his disciples for the trying days ahead. They should not lose heart, having seen him transfigured and glorious, and announced by the Father as his own beloved Son.

In his proposal to Jesus to stay on the mountain of glory for good, Peter was in effect saying, "No cross, only the crown." But this was not to be. We cannot escape the suffering of the cross in life, but Jesus gives meaning to the crosses we bear: in such crosses lie the kernel of victory in Jesus' resurrection. If we constantly listen to Jesus and reflect on what he himself went through, then when sufferings come our way, as they have and will, we can bear them in a spirit of faith, with our own transfiguration in mind. The challenge for us everyday is to live our life by the light of the truth - "No cross, no crown!"

Praying for you all,  
Fr. Anacleto

### SACRAMENTS

#### **Baptism**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month @ 11:00 AM, Baptism Class is the last Saturday of the month preceding the baptism @ 9:00 AM, pre-registration is needed, available in English & Spanish instruction. Please call the rectory to schedule, at least one month ahead of desired date. For further information and for the requirements of the godparents, please call the Rectory office.

#### **Confession**

Saturday @ 4:00 – 4:40 PM and by appointment

#### **Marriage**

Couple should contact the rectory office for information and registration at least 6 months prior to the date of marriage.

#### **Anointing of the Sick**

Call the rectory to arrange for a Priest's visit

### CHURCH OFFERING

February 18, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Collection - \$9,021.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection - \$1,794.00 (Black and Indian Missions)

#### **Upcoming Collections**

February 25<sup>th</sup> - Youth Ministry

March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Easter Flower Offering

March 10<sup>th</sup> - Catholic Relief Services

March 17<sup>th</sup> - Faith Formation

March 24<sup>th</sup> - My Easter Gift to Church

March 28<sup>th</sup> - Holy Thursday

March 29<sup>th</sup> - Holy Land Sanctuaries (Good Friday)

March 31<sup>st</sup> - Retired Priests

### Online Giving

If you are interested in donating online, please visit the parish website. Parishioners can schedule their contribution to be made weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.



### Religious Education

Faith Formation Classes are held Sundays from 8:45 AM to 11:00 AM. Classes take place at the Ascension School, 86-37 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, (across the street from the firehouse). The classes run from September through June. Classes are for children in grades 1 through 8<sup>th</sup>. Proof of baptism is required for children who are being registered for the first time, as well as birth certificate. For further information on registration please call the Rectory Office at 718-335-2626.

**Volunteers Needed:** If you would be interested in volunteering for the Faith Formation Program, please call the Parish Office at 718-335-2626

or e-mail [ascensionfaithformationoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionfaithformationoffice@gmail.com)

### Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Are you an unbaptized adult but want to be baptized in the Catholic church? Or, are you baptized non-Catholic who desires to be a Catholic? Or, are you baptized Catholic in need of the Sacrament of Confirmation? The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is the place for you. Registrations are presently being accepted at the Rectory Office. For further information please call the Rectory office at 718-335-2626.



**Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM Edward P. Cullen

**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM People of the Parish  
10:00 AM Maria Assumption Montebon  
11:30 AM In Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes  
1:00 PM Grupo de Oracion Ministerio Inmenso Dios (L)  
5:00 PM Felicidad Verastigue  
Prudencio Cura  
Christine Salazar Ballesteros (L)

**Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM Kenzie Galvez  
9:00 AM Elmira, Gloria & all deceased members of the Tanoy Family

**Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** - St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Amelia Griso  
9:00 AM Alejandro & Adolfo Tiangco

**Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM Cyril Rigaud  
9:00 AM Priscilla Mera Marquez (L)

**Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM Carol Ann Gibson  
9:00 AM Conchita Navarro

**Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** - World Day of Prayer

7:00 AM Sebastian & Pauline Tavaris  
9:00 AM Mary McBride  
7:00 PM Souls in Purgatory

**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:00 AM Purgatorial Society

Please pray for:

Kenzie Galvez



**Pray for the Sick:**



Rosa Tan, Carmen Moredo, Sandra P. Carvajal, Julissa Martinez, Luis Arnulfo, Elizabeth Yee, Elie Fornilda, Jose Reynel Vigoya, Joel Rivera, Sursatti Shaw, Gloria Patricia Rios, Harold, Diego y Kennedy Gomez, Elisa Marquina, Maria Daulo, Jose M. Rosado, Karla Nicole Paredes, Romelia Arenas, Rubiela Arenas, Enrique Soto, Eduardo D. Soto, Teresita Danseco, Evangeline & Victoria Danseco, Nazarette Serion, Greta Tasayco, Nerissa Infante, Laura Kreft, Shirley Ann Gundran, Egbert Nuñez, Avelina Quilung, Dennis Anthony Calimlim, Exelito Valencia, Bonifacio Guiab, Margie Bulwag, Egbert Nuñez, Maria Dala Rosa George, Renato Go, Leticia Maranan, Denise Giglio, Rustico Castellano, Beth Bagnol Enriquez, Cely DeBorja, Vanessa Velasquez, Maggie Riego de Dios. To add names, please call the Parish Office.

**MEMORIALS**

February 25 – March 2



**Altar Bread and Wine has been donated  
In Loving Memory of  
Felicidad Verastigue**

Requested by: Cora Marquez & family

**Sanctuary Lamp will burn**

**In Loving Memory of  
Felicidad Verastigue**

Requested by: Cora Marquez & family



**Altar Flowers has been donated**

**In Loving Memory of**

*(please contact the Rectory Office to request a flower memorial)*

**Altar Candles will burn**

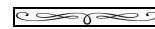
**In Loving Memory of**

Felicidad Verastigue

Requested by: Cora Marquez & family



**Memorials are available, kindly contact Rectory Office.**



**EUCARISTIC REVIVAL 2022-2024**

**EXPLANATION OF THE MASS**

*After a series of short catechesis on the sacrament of the Eucharist, we will now have a series of short explanation of the different parts of the Mass.*

**Lamb of God:** The *Lamb of God*, or in Latin *Agnus Dei*, is a Christological hymn inspired by the words uttered by St. John the Baptist at the River Jordan. When he saw Jesus, he proclaimed: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"(John 1:29). In the Old Testament, lambs were sacrificed in celebration of the Passover which commemorates the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt and their "passing over" to freedom in the promised land; in the New Testament, Jesus is declared as the true Lamb of God who makes possible the crossing from sin and death to the eternal life. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus is represented as a victorious Lamb, who was slain but now lives forever (Revelation 5:6).

**Breaking of the Eucharistic Bread:** During the Lamb of God, the priest breaks the Eucharistic Bread, and drops a portion of it into the chalice to signify communion with the Pope in Rome. At the time of the Apostles, it was a tradition to bring a portion of the consecrated Bread to the Pope, and to drop it into his chalice, to signify communion with him. When it became impossible to travel to Rome, the priests were required to drop a portion of the consecrated Bread into their chalice.

*(Continuation on page of Saint's Corner)*

**2024 Annual Catholic Appeal**



Information on this year's appeal will be provided shortly. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to reaching our goal for this year.

The 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal supports the mission of our parish and the daily work of the Church in Brooklyn and Queens in ways no one parish can accomplish alone.

Once we exceed our goal, we will then receive 100% of all funds raised above this figure directly back to our parish for operations and improvements. Donations for this year are being accepted. Donate at Annual Catholic Appeal.org or text ACA to 917-336-1255.

To donate on-line: <https://catholicfoundationbq.org/annual-catholic-appeal/>  
Checks can be made out directly to:

Annual Catholic Appeal  
Diocese of Brooklyn P.O. Box 310  
Kensington, CT 06037-0310

Remember, that no gift is too small. Thank you.

## Spanish Corner:

### El Sacramento del Bautismo

Tenemos Bautismo en español el tercer sábado del mes a las 11:00 AM La clase pre-bautismal será el sábado antes del bautismo a las 9:00 AM Se requiere inscripción previa para la clase y el Bautismo, lo menos con un mes de anticipación. Llamar a la oficina parroquial para más información y para los requisitos de los padrinos.

### Clases de Educación Religiosas Para Adultos

La Orden de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos (OICA) son clases para adultos necesitados de recibir los sacramentos de Bautismo, Comunión o Confirmación. Las clases de OICA también son para adultos que no son Católicos, pero están interesados en ser Católico.

Para información sobre el programa y atención en español, llamar al 718-335-2626, en el horario de día de lunes a viernes.

### Clases De Educación Religiosa para Niños/Jóvenes

Las clases de Educación Religiosa para los niños/jóvenes del primero a octavo grado toman lugar los domingos de 8:45 AM a 11:00 AM de septiembre a junio. Las clases toman lugar en la Escuela Asunción, 86-37 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, (frente la estación de bomberos). Se requiere prueba de bautismo y acta de nacimiento para todo niño registrado por primer vez. Para más información en español llamar al 718-335-2626, en el horario de día de lunes a viernes.

Nuestra parroquia necesita catequistas y voluntarios para el programa de educación religiosa. Animamos a los que puedan a compartir su fe Católica, su tiempo y talento. Si le interesa, favor de llamar a la Oficina Parroquial, 718-335-2626.

### Campaña Católica Anual Del 2024

Más que nunca, necesitamos su ayuda para difundir la luz de Cristo en nuestra ciudad y vecindarios contribuyendo a la Campaña Católica Anual del 2024. Su participación lo une en la fe con otros en la iglesia para hacer buenas obras.

Dentro de unas semanas durante las misas a través de nuestra diócesis y en nuestra parroquia llevaremos a cabo un fin de semana de compromiso pidiendo el apoyo de todos los que puedan.

Haga su donación hoy en [Annual Catholic Appeal.org](https://annualcatholicappeal.org) o envíe un texto con las siglas ACA al 917-336-1255. Para donar en línea: <https://catholicfoundationbq.org/annual-catholic-appeal/>

Recuerden que cualquier cantidad será aceptada. Gracias.

### Vía Crucis

Vía Crucis en español será todos los martes durante Cuaresma a las 7:00 PM en la Iglesia.

### Hora del Verano

El domingo 10 de marzo se cambian los relojes por la hora del verano o sea 'Daylight Savings Time' Recuerden adelantar sus relojes 1 hora antes el día sábado 9 de marzo.

## PRAYER GROUPS & DEVOTIONS

- Monday:** **Miraculous Medal Novena**  
Mondays @ 9:30 AM
- Tuesday:** **Spanish Prayer Group @ 7:00 PM**
- Wednesday:** **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
Novena @ 9:30 AM | Novena Mass  
@ 7:00 PM (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday)
- Friday:** **Holy Hour / Exposition & Benediction**  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday @ 9:30 AM Mass
- Our Lady of Fatima | Most Sacred Heart of Jesus & Black Nazarene**  
1<sup>st</sup> Friday – Angelus | Rosary | Novena to Our Lady of Fatima @ 6:00 PM &  
Mass @ 7:00 PM
- Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group & Choir**  
4<sup>th</sup> Friday 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM (Lower Church)
- Saturday:** **2000 Hail Mary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ 9:30 AM
- Lady of Mary Mediatrix of all Grace**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday @ 9:30 AM
- El Shaddai**  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Lower Church)
- Sunday:** **Ascension Parish Rosary Society**  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday @ 10:00 AM
- Religious Education Children's Choir**  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and if applicable 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ 11:15 AM-12:30 PM
- Divine Mercy Devotion Prayer Group and God the Father of All Mankind Devotion Prayer Group**  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Lower Church)  
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Church)  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (Lower Church)
- CFC Christian Life Program\***  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and if applicable 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
@ 2:00 to 5:00 PM (Lower Church)  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month @ 3:00 to 6 PM (Lower Church)  
\* \* \* \* \*
- Rosary Making Ministry**  
To request supplies and/or pick up rosaries,  
please email: [marie\\_panas@msn.com](mailto:marie_panas@msn.com)



## EVENTS / NEWS & UPDATES

**Stations of the Cross:** The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent after the 9:00 AM Mass and at 6:30 PM.

**Statement of Contributions:** The Statement of Contributions for 2023 for all registered parishioners has been prepared. If you need a copy for tax purposes please call the Rectory Office to request one.

**Daylight Savings Time:** Daylight Savings Time begins on the second Sunday in March (March 10<sup>th</sup>) at 2:00 a.m. local time in the U.S. Turn clocks ahead one hour, ideally at bedtime on the Saturday night before.

**Eucharistic Revival**  
**(continuation)**

**Elevation of the Host:** The *Elevation of the Host* is done to profess our faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Sacred Species (“This is the Lamb of God...”), and also to acknowledge our unworthiness in receiving him (“Lord, I am not worthy...”). This is done to commemorate the Roman Centurion of Capernaum, who pleaded with Jesus for healing his servant. When Jesus proposed to visit his home the Centurion replied: “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed.” And Jesus praised him saying: “In no one in Israel have I found such a faith”(Matthew 8:5-10).

**Saint’s Corner:**

**St. Peter Damian**  
February 21

Peter Damian was born in Ravenna, Italy, in 1007. His brother, who was archpriest of Ravenna, sent him for a first class education. He became a teacher.

Already as a student, he demonstrated a deep piety. He wore a hair shirt under his clothes to mortify his flesh and keep his sexual urges under control, spent many hours in prayer, and fasted rigorously.

Later on, after a few years spent in the teaching profession, at the age of 28 he became a Benedictine monk. Eight years later, Peter Damian was unanimously chosen by the other monks to become their abbot.

Peter Damian lived at a time that some historians have called the darkest age for the Church. This is how John Fink describes that Church in his book on the Doctors of the Church: “The State, whether Italy or Germany, controlled Church affairs. This control began with Charlemagne in the ninth century and reverted to powerful Roman families in the tenth century. Church officials could not even elect the pope. Until 962 one or another Roman family chose the pope, usually a member of that family. The popes were secular men, usually more intent on furthering their families’ finances than caring for the Church. The clerical vocation became a quick route to wealth and power. Clerical marriage and concubinage were prevalent and in some places the episcopacy itself became a hereditary position filled by a bishop’s son. Religious practices among the clergy declined as corruption among the clergy grew. Preaching was largely discontinued and sacraments were neglected.”

Peter Damian began to work at the reform of the Church at large. This he did primarily by writing extensively against the many vices prominent among the clergy and encouraged the popes in their efforts at reforming the Church. When he was made cardinal-bishop of Ostia, Peter Damian worked hard to reform his clergy.

Peter Damian reminds us that true reform of the Church begins with oneself. Before working at the reform of the Church, Peter Damian started off by reforming himself, making sure he himself was trying his best to be faithful to Christ - and kept at it throughout his life.

**NEW TO OUR PARISH?**  
**WELCOME! PARISH MEMBERSHIP:**

New parishioners are to register in the Parish. Please notify the Parish Office of any changes in address or phone number.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive a registration form

I have an address change

I am moving out of the Parish

Please cut out and return to Parish office or drop in the collection basket. Thank you.



**Sunday Gospel Activities**

G J T D L P O P V W P O X F F Y M E L D Y  
H K Z Y P O W T W B D Q Y S O N O F M A N  
W G C A V V B W N E U A Q H G K U I B Z O  
S Y W J V N W T V L S T T A Z P N E I Z Z  
D P C D K W V D O I Y P I D N A T O V L F  
A W H M Y C F D T S L V K O L Y A L N I X  
S O O A O R Z Y D T D M F W T F I E K N L  
C O Q R Z X G C B E L O V E D K N I D G N  
X A D O C Q F Z I N I Q N L X A Y T Y A F  
A Z P I Z G H F S Q I X D I I C W K M O E  
Q B T G I T I X D R A E H J A M E S C E R  
N C O B W R H J Z X C E I A R P M P E T K  
P G T G R O B D Q S M A U H Y Q T X T K A  
T I R E U J G P P M C O A N S O C W T C V  
Z S T Q R N W H F R Y R C E Q Q G X M L K  
Z M R O E M M C K O W D N O A M E A R O A  
M Y J X O K L I V X B H H E K O J V A U M  
C N A K F V B D B P O O N D L S P P X D F  
B Q O D D B S Q O J E S U S T E B C J M U  
A R Z P A M G C T N U T M N W S Y S M M S  
F L T R A N S F I G U R E D T K Y Y Y U K  
D T T O T T D U Q Z K T Y R V I C U Q H U

BELOVED	JESUS	RABBI
CLOUD	JOHN	SHADOW
DAZZLING	LISTEN	SONOFMAN
ELIJAH	MOSES	TENTS
EXCEPT	MOUNTAIN	TERRIFIED
JAMES	PETER	TRANSFIGURED

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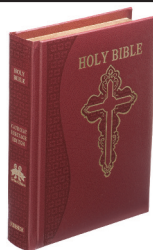
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